

Minutes

256th Special Executive Committee On-line Meeting

May 25, 2020

(Zoom meeting platform)

Present

Brenda Austin-Smith, President (UMFA)
Peter McInnis, Vice-President (ST.FXAUT)
Yalla Sangaré, Treasurer (APPBUSA)
James Compton, Past President (UWOFA)
David Newhouse, Representative-at-large (Aboriginal) (TUFA)
Serge Jolicoeur, Representative-at-large (Francophone) (ABPPUM)
Robin Whitaker, Representative-at-large (General) (MUNFA)
Marc Schroeder, Representative-at-large (General) (MRFA)
Laurence McFalls, Representative-at-large (Quebec) (SGPUM)
Alison Hearn, Chair, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (UWOFA)
Sue Blair, Chair, Collective Bargaining and Economic Benefits Committee (AUNBT)
Sarika Bose, Chair, Contract Academic Staff Committee (UBCFA)
Tim Ribaric, Chair, Librarians' and Archivists' Committee (BUFA)
Pat Armstrong, Co-Chair, Equity Committee (YUFA)
Momin Rahman, Co-Chair, Equity Committee (TUFA)

David Robinson, Executive Director
Tony Cantin, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources
Pam Foster, Director, Research & Political Action
Valérie Dufour, Director, Communications
Margaret McGovern-Poté, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director

Opening Remarks

The President welcomed members and advised that this special Executive Committee meeting was convened to provide members of the Executive Committee with a COVID-19 update and for a discussion on whether the Executive should bring forward a recommendation to hold a Special

Meeting of Council. The Executive Director advised he had two items to add to the agenda for discussion including (1) Elections for members of the CAUT Executive Committee and (2) the CAUT Refugee Foundation.

01. COVID-19 Update

The Executive Director highlighted a number of issues that have been raised in recent weeks by member associations. Some administrations are making decisions related to the way courses are going to be delivered in the fall without consulting the appropriate collegial governance bodies in their institutions. There have also been some administrations making claims about financial distress and possible exigency. There are also concerns being raised in relation to the dual 'hybrid' form of teaching that seems likely to be adopted on many campuses for the Fall semester. CAUT will need to provide guidance and assistance to member associations as they navigate through these issues, and empower them to challenge these administrations when necessary. It was recommended that the upcoming Forum for New Presidents would be an opportunity for new association presidents to share their experiences and to provide them with tools and advice.

02. Special Meeting of Council

The Executive Director reported that further to the Spring Council meeting being deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he has consulted with legal counsel as to how to proceed to deal with essential business matters including the adoption of a 2020-2021 budget, appointment of members to CAUT standing committees, and the delegation of authorities. He advised that the CAUT By-law allows for a special meeting of Council to be convened by the Executive Committee as long as members are given a 21-day notice.

COMPTON/BLAIR: THAT CAUT convene a special meeting of Council in compliance with the 21 days' notice as stipulated in the CAUT By-law, to be held June 26.

CARRIED

03. Elections for Positions on CAUT Executive Committee

The Executive Director reported that due to the Spring Council meeting being deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the procedure for elections of members to the CAUT Executive Committee needs to be addressed. He advised he is consulting with the CAUT auditors to establish a procedure to coordinate the distribution of ballots to voting delegates via electronic means.

04. CAUT Refugee Foundation

The Executive Director reported that CAUT has been relying on the Funds available through the CAUT Refugee Foundation to support Dr. Carlos Zambrano Escamilla, former president of the Sindicato de Profesores de la Fundación Universidad Autónoma de Colombia, and his family, for their resettlement in Canada. He encouraged the Executive Committee to make a financial contribution to the Fund to help support Dr. Zambrano and his family through the next fiscal year.

COMPTON/MCINNIS: THAT CAUT contribute \$25,000 to the CAUT Refugee Foundation.

CARRIED

The Executive Director advised that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would be held in advance of the June 26 Council meeting. Details of the date and time of the meeting would be provided to members as soon as available.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.